

MINUTES

CAC Members Present: Bruce Wilson, James Donaldson, Johnny Safrit, Preston Sale, Judy Kandl, Bill Safrit, Greta Connor, and Barbara Perry

CAC Members Absent: Cindy Bridges, Michael Lippard, and Suzette Davis

City Staff: Lynn Raker, Janice Bodford

Neighborhood Leaders: Lou Manning, Park Avenue; Anne Lyles, Brooklyn South Square; Pat Sylvester, North Main Street Historic District; Kathy Walters, Ellis Street Graded School Historic District; Sarah Hawkins, Green Hills; Charles Hawkins, Green Hills; Elaine Mills, Pinehurst St. Community; Nora Faucette, Jersey City; Paul Goble, Milford Hills; Robbie Davis, McColl Heights; Sherry Halpin, Eaman Park; Barbara Perry, West Square; James Donaldson, Jersey City; Preston Sale, Brooklyn South Square; Greta Connor, Sedgefield Acres.

CAC Chair Bruce Wilson welcomed the Neighborhood Leaders and introductions were made. Lynn Raker (City Urban Design Planner and CAC Staff Liaison) presented an overview about what the Community Appearance Commission does. Activities included pocket parks, tree planting program, mosaic art project for a retaining wall on N Depot Street, incentive grants for private property improvements for the downtown area and the Innes Street Corridor. Also discussed were the Park Avenue Community Center, Community Development Corporation's building infill houses in some of our neighborhoods (Jersey City), and the Downtown Farmer's Market which will open May 15th.

Lou Manning, Park Avenue neighborhood, expressed interest in finding funding for a gateway into the community. One possible location for this gateway is at Boundary Street and Park Avenue or East Council and Park Avenue. The CAC could assist with the design of the project which could possibly function as a pocket park. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds might also be used for it. Lynn noted how exceptional this neighborhood is and how they have bonded together to get things done.

Jersey City has a similar interest in an entrance/gateway to the neighborhood. A logical place for it is the triangular shaped land where the Kentucky Fried Chicken used to be. The City traded property with Dr. Webb. The land is for sale for development. It would also be a good place for a pocket park.

Barbara Perry noted that the CAC should consider entrances/gateways to each neighborhood as a long range project which could provide continuity from neighborhood to neighborhood. It could be implemented over a 4-5 year period. Elaine Mills noted that there used to be a sign in her neighborhood called Ludwig Acres (Pinehurst St. Community). Some repair work was done and the sign was never put back up. Bill Safrit noted that the homeowners in Eagle Heights contributed money to pay for their own sign.

Nora Faucette (Jersey City) announced the 4th Annual Jersey City Reunion, which will take place July 10th and invited everyone to attend. James Donaldson said that signage has been addressed in Jersey City community meetings. A design is being developed and Joe Morris (City Planning and Community Development Manager) is working with them.

Barbara Perry (West Square neighborhood) remarked that her neighborhood had questions about dumpsters that are left open by different businesses and trash blows throughout the neighborhood. One business also has furniture left out in the parking lot. West Square would like for the City to check into this. Barbara will provide the names of the businesses involved.

Paul Goble (Milford Hills) expressed concerns about streets needing repaving especially Mahaley and Mocksville Avenues and Grove Street. NC DOT has a schedule for repaving and is now repaving a lot of roads in our county. Johnny Safrit contacted NC DOT about the schedule. He was informed that Mahaley Ave. portion of Hwy 70 had been deeded over to the City 2-3 years ago. Grove St is also a City street. The CAC can write a letter to the City Council informing them of the feedback we received from neighborhood leaders at today's meeting.

Anne Lyles (Brooklyn South Square) asked about the corner of Lee and Fisher Streets. Bruce noted that the CAC has addressed this area in their meetings. Lynn submitted some designs to HPC which were approved. That is one of the entrance ways to Brooklyn South Square and they would like to see something improved there. Anne also said they would like to see medians on South Long Street instead of turn lanes. Lynn replied that it has been discussed a lot by CAC, HPC and the Planning Board. Lou Manning also commented about North Long street and the danger posed by the sudden merging of two northbound lanes.

Greta inquired about where the West End area started and about the status of sidewalks on W. Horah St. West End begins with Caldwell St. Discussion followed about the sidewalks on W Horah and how the road widens at one point with no sidewalks and narrows again. Lynn stated there were some CDBG (Community Block Grant) funds earmarked for sidewalks in the West End neighborhood.

Sherry Halpin of Lincolnton Road brought up the traffic problem at Lincolnton and Elm and it was suggested that at least a caution light could be put there where traffic from Elm merges into Lincolnton. CAC can alert the Traffic Engineer to this situation.

Bruce thanked the Neighborhood Leaders for attending today. If there are additional concerns, drop a note to us. We will forward these concerns to the appropriate departments.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Reviewed and approved the financial report for April.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Art in Public Places: The grant proposal for the mosaic project has been submitted to the Robertson Foundation and we should know something by the end of May. They have had an initial meeting and there was a lot of positive response for the project, but no monies were discussed. The big board meets at the end of the month to make final determinations.

Neighborhoods & Education Committee: James reported on the Jersey City Neighborhood Community Development meeting last Monday night. City officials were present; Joe Morris, Dan Mikkelsen, John Brooks, and Lynn Raker. They reviewed and discussed the priorities with the Jersey City community. Sidewalks and landscaping took top priority, and there is interest in a community center later on. The traffic issue with Freirich Foods employees was discussed. They are also interested in starting a Community Watch program.

Lynn and James encouraged CAC members, especially CAC Neighborhoods & Education Committee members, to become more involved in these specific neighborhood efforts. This information will be passed on when we learn of these meetings.

Landscaping: Barbara nominated KMD Construction and Johnny nominated Manning Park for the commercial category. Preston nominated Linda Edmondson at 309 East Bank Street, the blue house 2nd house on the right after the railroad tracks and Barbara nominated Dick and Dale Huffman on the corner of W Bank and Jackson St. Winners for May will be KMD Construction on Old West Innes St. and Scott McCombs of 120 S Fulton St.

Municipal Service District and Innes Street Improvement Grants: Lynn reported that a request has been received from the Chamber of Commerce for two new pots to go in front of their building. They are very expensive to order and we do not have the funds right now for it. The Chamber is willing to pay for one if we will pay for the other. Mark Martin, landscape manager, is willing to plant them and water them. Bruce asked if the Visitor's Bureau would be able to contribute something since they are in the same building. There are still a couple of grants (Happy Traveler) that may not be finished and those funds may be available for another project. We have other grant applications that have already been submitted for next year that would like to be considered if funds are left over for this year. There is also a request that we contribute any extra money to the Freedman's project. We have searched for a more local supplier for the pots and have not found one. We could look at fiberglass that looks pretty good and the shipping would not be as much. The Chamber would have to go through HPC for approval first. Lynn will contact MSD Committee members if a meeting is necessary.

The Soldiers AME Zion Church walkway has been completed.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.